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From: Arango, Courtney
Sent: Wed 6/1/2016 9:15:15 PM
Subject: South Bend Tribune editorial

All,

I am considering what it would look like to respond to this editorial from either IDEM, the EPA, or jointly. What are your thoughts, and if you have opinions you would like to share about how we would respond, please let me know directly. In my opinion, it's clear the editorial staff took the mayor's remarks out of context, given the background of the site. Regardless, I'm curious about your thoughts if we responded in a letter-to-the-editor or guest column about our ongoing efforts on this project.

Our Opinion: Still looking for answers at LaSalle Park

The city and Honeywell will conduct intensive soil, water and air testing at LaSalle Park beginning this summer. Tribune File Photo/GREG SWIERCZ

Posted: Wednesday, June 1, 2016 5:00 am | *Updated: 6:01 am, Wed Jun 1, 2016.*

Our Opinion: Still looking for answers at LaSalle Park

For years, residents of South Bend's LaSalle Park neighborhood have lived with the rumors.

They've questioned the safety of the area around the park and the adjacent Beck's Lake.

They've seen testing efforts led by the Environmental Protection Agency dating back to the 1980s.

They've worried about possible contamination from decades ago when local factories dumped industrial waste in the neighborhood.

Officials from the city, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management talked last week about ongoing efforts to determine the extent of the problem and the need for any cleanup in the area. While there's "no immediate risk" for park users, further investigation is warranted, according to an EPA official. The sampling effort, conducted by the city and Honeywell, will begin this summer and is likely to last through 2017. It will include taking surface and subsurface samples, as well as groundwater and air samples.

The history of delays and a failure to communicate over the years have only heightened suspicions and fear. In 2005, a city official talked with a Tribune reporter about IDEM study results that weren't reported for three years. The slow response, he said, frustrated everyone and helped feed conspiracy theories about hidden dangers.

More than a decade later, Mayor Pete Buttigieg says he understands frustrations "because this this has gone on for a long time."

Far too long. The residents of LaSalle Park deserve answers.

Thanks.

Courtney



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